



# Clark County Treasurer's Office

## quarterly update

First Quarter 2021 | From the desk of Alishia Topper

The Clark County Treasurer's Office is an independent financial arm of county government. It is my honor to share a few highlights from Q1 2021.

### First Half Property Taxes Due April 30

Property taxes are due Friday, April 30, 2021. The tax due date will not be extended for 2021 taxes. Current year payment plans are available for people financially impacted by the pandemic. [Learn more about tax relief programs](#) or [payment options](#).

### Debt Management

First quarter was busy with district debt issuances. In January Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue successfully issued \$1.7 million in bonds to fund the purchase of two new fire engines, fire equipment and vehicles. In addition, Vancouver Public Schools issued their final \$80 million from their 2017 voter approved bond for new schools and facility improvements. Learn more in our [2020 Year End Debt Report](#).

### We're Changing Banks

We are excited to report the Treasurer's Office project to transition its banking services provider to JP Morgan Chase is well underway.

The first quarter of the year was productive. We held over 30 business process review meetings with county departments and districts. Thank you to all who participated! We've documented the unique needs of each entity and are determining if there are any opportunities to gain efficiencies.

What's Next? In the second quarter we will finalize our solutions and implementation timeline with JP Morgan Chase, with the goal **of streamlining and standardizing services wherever possible**. A meeting will be scheduled with impacted departments and districts in May 2021 to review this information. **All Treasurer's Office managed accounts must be fully transitioned no later than December 2021.**

For more information or questions, contact Amira Ajami, [amira.ajami@clark.wa.gov](mailto:amira.ajami@clark.wa.gov)

### Covid-19 Continues to Impact Operations

The County Public Service Center and 2nd floor Joint Lobby remain closed to in-person services. Although our doors aren't open to the public, the Treasurer's Office is still hard at work and available to answer your questions. In coordination with the Auditor and Assessor we are working on a phased re-opening plan that will ensure our employees and customers stay safe and healthy. Thank you for your continued patience as we combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

*There is an elevated fraud risk during this type of changeover. Our office will never ask you for your bank account information. Please be on the lookout for suspicious activity and immediately report it to our office. We greatly appreciate your*

### Legislative Update

This session, the Washington State Association of County Treasurers advocated for expanded depository options for large counties, delinquent penalty and interest rates that don't impact collection rates and equity in the collection of business personal property taxes. Below is status on priority bills:

- **SB 5106 passed both chambers** and is headed to the governor. This bill expands municipal access to allow for deposits with credit unions without limitations for all counties in the state. Thank you to *Senator Ann Rivers* for being a bill sponsor.
- **ESHB 1410 passed both chambers** and is headed to the governor. This bill eliminates property tax penalties for residential real property with four or fewer units and lowers delinquent interest from 12% per annum to 9%. This bill becomes effective on January 1, 2022 and will apply to all real property tax accounts. Beginning January 1, 2023 non-residential real properties will become subject to penalties. Thank you to *Representative Wylie* for voicing Treasurer's concerns and ensuring amendments were added to maintain the integrity of our property tax collections while still helping tax payers by lowering fees. You can read the [Senate bill summary here](#).
- **EHB 1271 is set for second reading** in the Senate. This is a large continuity of operations bill and for treasurers, would align the payment options for delinquent business personal property with real property.

As always, please reach out to me or my team if you have questions or would like to learn more about the Clark County Treasurer's Office. [Contact us](#).